

## Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 /073 W

----- 122745

R 281744Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1036

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 3761

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: NATIONALISTS REACT TO GOVERNMENT PROHIBITION AGAINST MEETING

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3726

1. THE NATIONALIST PARTY DENOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION  
IN BANNING POLITICAL MEETINGS IN AN AUGUST 27 DECLARATION.

THE MAIN POINTS FOLLOW:

(A) THE NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF IN CHOLUTECA HAD TOLD THE  
HEADS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE LIBERAL  
AND NATIONALIST PARTIES THAT NO POLITICAL MEETINGS WOULD BE  
PERMITTED;

(B) ON AUGUST 23RD THE POLICE HAD INSTITUTED AN INTENSIVE  
WEAPONS SEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHOLUTECA, HAD COLLECTED  
2000 PISTOLS AND HAD IMPOSED A VIRTUAL STATE OF SIEGE;

(C) ON THE 24TH, THE POLICE PLACED PATROLS IN THE STREETS  
OF CHOLUTECA, SEARCHED CARS ENTERING AND LEAVING THE CITY  
AND TURNED BACK CAMPESINOS WHO WERE TRYING TO ENTER THE CITY;

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(D) ON THE 25TH, MILITARY VEHICLES PATROLLED THE CITY ON

THE PRETEXT THAT THERE WERE GUERRILLAS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY;

(E) THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES WERE OBVIOUSLY TAKEN TO INTIMIDATE THE PARTY TO KEEP IT FROM CONTINUING ITS CAMPAIGN FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY;

(F) A DATE FOR THE MEETING IN CHOLUTECA WILL BE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF WHEN IT IS ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE PARTY;

(G) IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE HONDURAN PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR LIBERTIES ARE DISAPPEARING; AND

(H) THE PARTY WILL CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN FOR A RETURN TO FREE ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONALITY.

2. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PROHIBIT POLITICAL PARTY MEETINGS WAS BACKED UP BY THE USE OF POLICE FORCE IN CHOLUTECA AND SURROUNDING AREAS. IT WAS A CLEAR WARNING TO THE NATIONALIST PARTY THAT THEIR PROJECTED AUGUST 31 MEETING WOULD BE STOPPED BEFORE IT GOT STARTED. THEREFORE, THE PARTY DECIDED TO CANCEL THE AUGUST 31 MEETING RATHER THAN THAN TO BE FACED WITH A SITUATION THAT COULD LEAD TO FURTHER REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT MEASURES.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

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